

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2419

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the technical and business assistance services under the SBIR and STTR programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the technical and business assistance services under the SBIR and STTR programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Support Startup Busi-
5 nesses Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS AS-**
7 **SISTANCE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(q) of the Small Busi-
9 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 638(q)) is amended—

- 1 (1) in the subsection heading, by inserting
2 “AND BUSINESS” after “TECHNICAL”;
3 (2) in paragraph (1)—
4 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
5 (A)—
6 (i) by striking “a vendor selected
7 under paragraph (2)” and inserting “1 or
8 more vendors selected under paragraph
9 (2)(A)”;
10 (ii) by inserting “and business” before
11 “assistance services”; and
12 (iii) by inserting “assistance with
13 product sales, intellectual property protec-
14 tions, market research, market validation,
15 and development of regulatory plans and
16 manufacturing plans,” after “tech-
17 nologies,”; and
18 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “,
19 including intellectual property protections” be-
20 fore the period at the end;
21 (3) in paragraph (2)—
22 (A) by striking “Each agency may select a
23 vendor to assist small business concerns to
24 meet” and inserting the following:

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each agency may se-
2 lect 1 or more vendors from which small busi-
3 ness concerns may obtain assistance in meet-
4 ing”; and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(B) SELECTION BY SMALL BUSINESS
7 CONCERN.—A small business concern may, by
8 contract or otherwise, select 1 or more vendors
9 to assist the small business concern in meeting
10 the goals listed in paragraph (1).”;

11 (4) in paragraph (3)—

12 (A) by inserting “(A)” after “paragraph
13 (2)” each place it appears;

14 (B) by striking “\$5,000 per year” each
15 place it appears and inserting “5 percent of the
16 amount of the award”;

17 (C) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking
18 “which shall be in addition to the amount of
19 the recipient’s award” and inserting “which
20 may, as determined appropriate by the head of
21 the Federal agency, be included as part of the
22 recipient’s award or be in addition to the
23 amount of the recipient’s award”;

24 (D) in subparagraph (C)—

1 (i) by inserting “or business” after
2 “technical”;

3 (ii) by striking “the vendor” and in-
4 serting “a vendor”; and

5 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing: “Business-related services aimed at
7 improving the commercialization success of
8 a small business concern may be obtained
9 from an entity, such as a public or private
10 organization or an agency of or other enti-
11 ty established or funded by a State that fa-
12 cilitates or accelerates the commercializa-
13 tion of technologies or assists in the cre-
14 ation and growth of private enterprises
15 that are commercializing technology.”;

16 (E) in subparagraph (D)—

17 (i) by inserting “or business” after
18 “technical” each place it appears; and

19 (ii) in clause (i), by striking “the ven-
20 dor” and inserting “1 or more vendors”;

21 and

22 (F) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(E) MULTIPLE AWARD RECIPIENTS.—The
24 Administrator shall establish a limit on the
25 amount of technical and business assistance

1 services that may be received or purchased
2 under subparagraph (B) by small business con-
3 cerns with respect to multiple Phase II SBIR or
4 STTR awards for a fiscal year.”; and
5 (5) by adding at the end the following:
6 “(4) ANNUAL REPORTING.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A small business con-
8 cern that receives technical or business assist-
9 ance from a vendor under this subsection dur-
10 ing a fiscal year shall submit to the Federal
11 agency contracting with the vendor a descrip-
12 tion of the technical or business assistance pro-
13 vided.

14 “(B) USE OF EXISTING REPORTING MECH-
15 ANISM.—The information required under sub-
16 paragraph (A) shall be collected by a Federal
17 agency as part of a report required to be sub-
18 mitted by small business concerns engaged in
19 SBIR or STTR projects of the Federal agency
20 for which the requirement was in effect on the
21 date of enactment of this paragraph.”.

22 (b) REVIEW.—Not later than the end of fiscal year
23 2019, the Administrator of the Small Business Adminis-
24 tration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business
25 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee

1 on Small Business of the House of Representatives a re-
2 port reviewing the efficacy of the provision of technical
3 and business assistance under section 9(q) of the Small
4 Business Act (2 U.S.C. 638(q)), as amended by subsection
5 (a).

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